

## Message Text

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R 261320Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1238

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMCONSUL NICE

UNCLAS MARSEILLE 0365

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FR

SUBJECT: LOCAL PRESS REACTION TO CHIRAC'S RESIGNATION

THREE MAJOR MARSEILLE DAILIES BANNERED FRONT PAGE NEWS OF  
JACQUES CHIRAC'S DEPARTURE FROM GOVERNMENT.

1. DEFFERERE'S "LE PROVENCAL" DESCRIBED DEVELOPMENT AS "THE  
GISCARD-CHIRAC RUPTURE... TESTIMONY TO FAILURE OF ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL POLITICS OF REGIME AND ILLUMINATING PROOF OF THE  
PROFOUND DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE ELYSEE AND THE UDR."  
UNSIGNED EDITORIAL REVIEWS EVENTS OF PAST FEW MONTHS AND  
STATES THAT POPULATION RETURNING FROM VACATION WILL DISCOVER  
WITH "STUPOR" THE DETAILS OF THE "GRAVE CRISIS" THAT HAS  
EXISTED BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER. SPEAKING OF  
GISCARD'S DESIRE TO WIDEN MAJORITY BY MOVING TOWARD "CENTRE  
GAUCHE", EDITORIAL SAYS THAT BREAK WITH "TOUGH AND PURE" GAULLIST  
APPEARS INEVITABLE. "IN ADDITION", EDIT CONTINUES, "GOVERNMENT  
FINDS ITSELF FACING THE "BLACK" DOSSIERS OF THE (POST VACATION)  
RETURN. MR. RAYMOND BARRE COULD WELL BE, IN THE EYES OF THE  
PRESIDENT, THE MAN MOST QUALIFIED TO RESOLVE THE NUMBER ONE  
PROBLEM: THAT OF INFLATION AND THE MOST CAPABLE OF DEFENDING  
THE GOVERNMENT POSITION IN DEBATES WITH LEADERS OF OPPOSITION  
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AS PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING WISHES. NEVERTHELESS, HE

IS LACKING IN SOLID POLITICAL EXPERIENCE. IT IS THUS NOT CERTAIN THAT NEW PRIME MINISTER CAN, BETTER THAN MR. CHIRAC, CONTAIN THE PROBABLE ATTACK OF THE GAULLISTS NOW SHAPING UP."

2. UNDER HEAD, "A UNIQUELY POLITICAL RESIGNATION" ROGER POULARD, EDITORIALIST OF CONSERVATIVE "LE MERIDIONAL" SAYS, "AGAINST ALL POLITICAL LOGIC AND MAYBE ALSO AGAINST THE MOST ELEMENTARY ELECTORAL PRUDENCE, PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING HAS THUS TAKEN THE RISK." POULARD WONDERES IF GISCARD HAS REALLY CALCULATED CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ASPECTS OF RISK AND, AFTER REVIEW OF EVENTS, QUESTIONS WHETHER NEW PRIME MINISTER "SURROUNDED WITH PRESTIGIOUS HALO OF TECHNICIAN" FULLY REALIZES DIFFICULTIES HE FACES IN BECOMING "THE PRESIDENT'S MAN". SPEAKING OF GISCARD DECLARED DESIRE TO AN OPENING TO THE CENTER-LEFT POULARD SEES ANY SUCH MOVE AS ATTEMPT TO END BI-POLARIZATION OF FRENCH POLITICAL LIFE AND OPEN A BREACH IN UNION OF LEFT. POULARD CONCLUDES, "IF IT IS NOT TOO LATE, ONE SHOULD ALSO KNOW JUST THE SAME, THAT RECKLESSNESS PAYS ONLY OCCASIONALLY, IN OTHER WORDS, RARELY. PARTICULARLY IN POLITICS."

3. COMMUNIST "MA MARSEILLAISE" RUNS DECLARATION OF FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY ON CHIRAC DEPARTURE UNDER THE HEAD "TOWARD A MORE AUTHORITARIAN AND ATLANTIC PRESIDENTIAL REGIME." FULL BACK PAGE IS DEVOTED TO NEGATIVE COMMENT ON GOVERNMENT CHANGE WITH HEADINGS SETTING THE TONE: "THEY LIED TO US", "GASOLINE MORE EXPENSIVE IN SEPTEMBER", "AUSTERITY: TOMORROW IT WILL BE WORSE", DROUGHT: "MAKE THE TAXPAYERS PAY." SIMPSON

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